Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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December 6, 2017

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings Ranking Member Committee on Oversight and Government Reform U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings:

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Committee on the Judiciary have primary jurisdiction over the matters you refer to in today's letter. Earlier this year, I specifically communicated to Special Counsel Robert Mueller I would not wittingly or unwittingly interfere with an ongoing criminal probe. What you allege is a crime, squarely within the jurisdiction of the Special Counsel. You claim to have already had ex parte communications with Mueller's office. If you have evidence of a crime, you should provide it to the Special Counsel immediately.

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is not investigating crime on a "daily" basis but rather investigating the following as part of the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election:

- Russian cyber activity and other "active measures" directed against the U.S. and its allies;
- Counterintelligence concerns related to Russia and the 2016 U.S. election, including any intelligence regarding links between Russia and individuals associated with political campaigns;
- The United States Government's response to these Russian active measures and any impact they may have on intelligence relationships and traditional alliances; and
- Possible leaks of classified information related to the Intelligence Community's assessments of these matters.

As for your continued obsession with the Select Committee on Benghazi, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation began as a direct result of the Committee's work which led to the discovery of the email server. The Committee held no hearings on the matter and interviewed no witnesses other than to determine whether the Committee had all relevant information. Perhaps your memory is poor because you spent two years obstructing, delaying, and obfuscating the investigation. If it had been up to you, the server would still be a mystery.

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I have shared your letter with Representative Michael Conaway, who is leading the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's investigation into Russian interference, and Representative Adam Schiff, Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), so they may determine whether to add witnesses to the HPSCI witness list. While you may want every Committee of Congress to investigate the same fact patterns, it isn't a prudent use of resources—something you used to be mindful of.

Sincerely.

Trey Gowdy